

**Middlesex Community College**  
Life Span Development – PSY – F201 - CRN 1369  
Spring 2019

**INSTRUCTOR:** Professor Sheila Dupuis, Psy.D., 860-659-0579; or “message” me through blackboard

**TEXTBOOK:** Development Across the Live Span, 8<sup>th</sup> edition Author: Robert Feldman.

**Scope of course:**

This course will examine human development from conception through death. Theories pertaining to physical, cognitive, and psychosocial development will be explored and be applied to the developmental tasks which face the individual throughout the life span. Care will be taken to view human development as a process of adaptation to the biological, psychological, sociological, and cognitive challenges which are continuously presented to the growing person. Due to the fact that we explore the individual within the context of ethnic, religious, and cultural diversity, this course qualifies as a “D” course, thereby meeting the graduation requirement.

**General Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. discuss and compare various theoretical approaches to development;
2. demonstrate in class discussion and written exercises a general knowledge of the basic concepts of human development;
4. understand the aspects of scientific research and how research contributes to our understanding of human development;
5. apply the knowledge and insights gained from course context to one’s personal development.

**Course Requirements and Evaluation Methods**

<b>Exams:</b> There will be 2 exams: a mid-term and a final	300 points - 30%
<b>Discussions:</b> (14 @ 20 points each)	280 points - 28%
<b>Developmental stage summaries:</b> (8 @ 35 points each)	280 points - 28%
<b>Partial Autobiography:</b>	120 points - 12%
<b>SmarterMeasure Test:</b>	<u>20 points - 2%</u>
<b>Total:</b>	1000 points = 100%

Details (and rubrics where appropriate) for each requirement and assignment can be found under “**Weekly Assignments**” in the main menu. However, here is an overview of the requirements:

**Exams:** There will be two exams (a mid-term and a final). Each exam will have 50 multiple choice questions. These exams are open book and you are given 5 hours to complete them, although you should only need 2 hours. Once you begin the exam, you need to complete it within 5 hours. Make sure you click on **Save Answer** under **EVERY** question you answer. Each exam is worth 150 points.

**Class Discussions:** Each week there will be a discussion question (often with multiple questions to address within the question) in the discussion forum. You are required to post your initial response to the question and two (2) additional posts in reply to other student’s posts. Your initial response to the class discussion question should be between 300 – 400 words long and is due **midnight, Thursday of the week**. The 2 responses to another student’s post should be substantive and

approximately 200 – 300 words long. Do more than agree with your classmate; make sure you are adding information to the discussion through your posts. It is **due midnight, Saturday of the week**. Each discussion assignment (which includes your initial response and 2 additional responses) is **worth 20 points** each. Points will be deducted for late submissions.

See rubric for details

**Developmental Stage Summaries:** These will be due at the end of each developmental stage covered in the text. You will submit each summary in the Assignment Dropbox by **midnight of the week they are due**. The assignment drop box can be found in the “weekly assignments” section for the week the assignment is due.

See below for specific due dates. Each chapter summary is **worth 40 points**.

The purpose of this assignment is to help you better understand the factors that impact development from conception to death. For each summary you will describe (in your own words) the physical, cognitive and social areas of development for the stage of life (i.e. conception, infancy, preschool years, etc.). Make sure you include theory and research (from the text) to support your main points.

The length of the summary is about two pages (font size 12, double-spaced). Use APA Style Guide for in-text citation and the list of references.

See rubric for more information

### **Partial Developmental Autobiography**

Choose a developmental stage you have completed or are currently in. Apply what you have learned about physical, cognitive, and social development to your own development and experiences.

Address these three areas in detail:

**Physical development including fitness & health:** Discuss your own physical development compared to the text for your lifespan stage. Are you in the “average” range for your age group? Do you think you need to take any steps to improve your health?

**Cognitive development:** What stage of development are you in according to Piaget? (If there are other theories addressed in the text concerning your cognitive development, include that, too) Where are you in terms of intelligence and/or brain development? What is the focus of cognitive development for your developmental stage?

**Social & Personality development:** Which stage of Erikson’s social developmental theory are you in? How have you resolved the “conflict”? What is the outcome of that resolution? What is the focus of social development for the developmental stage you are writing about? Address personality development in this section according to theory.

Include concepts and theories from the book. You need to show you understand the 3 areas and can apply them to your life. You may also write about a child (your own or one you know well and can observe).

You will need to use 2 peer-reviewed sources (other than the text) to support the concepts and theories you include.

Paper should be a minimum of 3 pages and written in APA format (double spaced with a reference page).

### **SmarterMeasure Assessment**

Before you start reading the textbook, you will take the self-assessment test, SmarterMeasure (READI). The test information can be found at <http://mxcc.edu/distance/take-a-smartermeasure-test>. After taking the test, you will analyze your test report and evaluate your readiness in learning online. You will write a summary report, discussing your strengths and weaknesses (yellow or red on the bar chart). Especially, in the weak areas, discuss how you plan to improve your skills and ensure a success in this class. This assignment is worth 20 points.

PowerPoint slides for each chapter are available under “**Course Content**”

### **Course Outline**

<b>Weeks</b>	<b>Reading Assignments</b>	<b>Assignments</b>
Week 1, 1/24 – 1/27 <b>A short week to help you get started.</b>	Preparation and Orientation	- Introduction discussion - Explore online “classroom” - SmarterMeasure Test – Due 1/27/19
Week 2, 1/28 – 2/3	<b>Chapter 1</b> Intro to Life Span Development: theory, Research Methods <b>Chapter 2</b> - Prenatal Development	Discussion
Week 3, 2/4 – 2/10	<b>Chapter 3</b> - Birth and the Newborn Infant	Discussion  <b>Summary</b> – Conception (submit to assignment drop box) See assignment details under “ <b>weekly assignments</b> ” week 3
Week 4, 2/11 – 2/17	<b>Chapter 4</b> Physical Development in Infancy <b>Chapter 5</b> Cognitive development in infancy	Discussion
Week 5, 2/18 – 2/24	<b>Chapter 6</b> Social & Personality Development in Infancy	Discussion  <b>Summary</b> - Infancy Years (submit to assignment drop box)

Week 6, 2/25 – 3/3	<p><b>Chapter 7</b> Physical &amp; Cognitive Development: Preschool years</p> <p><b>Chapter 8</b> Social and Personality Development: Preschool years</p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p><a href="#">Summary</a> – Preschool Years (submit to assignment drop box)</p>
Week 7, 3/4 - 3/10	<p><b>Chapter 9</b> Physical &amp; Cognitive Development: Middle Childhood</p>	<p>Discussion</p>
<b>Spring Break 3/11 – 3/17</b>		
Week 8, 3/18 – 3/24	<p><b>Chapter 10</b> Social &amp; Personality Development: Middle Childhood</p> <p><b>Chapter 11</b> Physical &amp; Cognitive Development: Adolescence</p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p><a href="#">Summary</a> – Middle Childhood Years (submit to assignment drop box)</p>
Week 9, 3/25 – 3/31	<p><b>Chapter 12</b> Social &amp; Personality Development: Adolescence</p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p><a href="#">Summary</a> – Adolescence Years (submit to assignment drop box)</p>
Week 10, 4/1 – 4/7	<p><b>Chapter 13</b> Physical/ Cognitive/ Development: Early Adulthood</p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p>Midterm Exam – Chapters 1 – 12 Midterm Exam will be available Tuesday 4/3 and due Saturday 4/6</p>
Week 11, 4/8 – 4/14	<p><b>Chapter 14</b> Social &amp; Personality Development: Early Adulthood</p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p><a href="#">Summary</a> – Early Adult Years (submit to assignment drop box)</p>
Week 12, 4/15 – 4/21	<p><b>Chapter 15</b> Physical /Cognitive Development: Middle Adulthood</p> <p><b>Chapter 16</b> Social/Personality Development: Middle Adulthood</p>	<p>Discussion</p>
Week 13, 4/22 – 4/28	<p><b>Chapter 17</b> Physical &amp; Cognitive Development: Late Adulthood</p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p><a href="#">Summary</a> – Middle Adult Years (submit to assignment drop box)</p> <p>Monday 4/29 is the last day to officially withdraw from this course. After this time/date, your grade stays as it is.</p>
Week 14, 4/29 – 5/5	<p><b>Chapter 18</b> Social &amp; Personality Development in Late Adulthood</p>	<p>Discussion</p> <p><b>Autobiography Due</b> – Assignment drop box</p>

Week 15, 5/6– 5/12	<b>Chapter 19</b> Death & Dying	Discussion  <a href="#">Summary</a> – Late Adulthood (submit to assignment drop box)
Week 16, 5/13 – 5/19	Final Exam. Final Grade will be available in Student Self-Service via MyCommNet.	Review Chapters and prepare for the Final Exam – chapters 13 - 19 Final Exam available 5/13; Due 5/18

To read the **Academic and College Policies A – Z**, please go to this web site:  
<https://mxcc.edu/catalog/academic-policies/>